



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

928 638-7739 phone
928 638-7867 fax
www.nps.gov/grca

Grand Canyon News Release

Release date: Immediate

Contact(s): Pamela Walls

Phone number: 928-638-7958

Date: September 24, 2007

Autumn colors signify that the end of another visitor season on the North Rim is near

Grand Canyon, Ariz. - The changing of the seasons is occurring on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park as autumn colors begin to emerge.

As colors on the North Rim change, it is a reminder that the North Rim's visitor season is winding down. The staff on the North Rim has begun preparations to shut down visitor services and facilities, though the park will remain open to visitors on a day-use basis until snow closes Highway 67 leading into the park.

The National Park Service's (NPS) North Rim Visitor Center will close at 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 16. Regularly scheduled ranger-led programs, as advertised in "*The Guide*," will be offered through October 15. Entrance fees and campground fees will be collected through the end of the day on October 15. Starting October 16, a limited number of campsites with limited services, such as portable toilets, will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis until snow closes Highway 67.

Hikers and cross-country skiers will be permitted to use the park's group campsites throughout the winter months if they have obtained a permit through the Park's South Rim Backcountry Information Center or by going to the Visitor Center at Pipe Springs National Monument. The South Rim Backcountry Information Center is open year-round and can be reached by calling (928) 638-7875, Monday through Friday, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. MST. Permit requests can

be faxed year-round to (928) 638-2125. Permits are not considered earlier than the first of the month, four months prior to the proposed start date.

Reservations for the Grand Canyon Lodge will be accepted through the night of October 15. All other concessioner-related visitor services, except for limited food service, will close at the end of the day on October 15. The last meal served at the Grand Canyon Lodge will be breakfast, which ends at 10:00 a.m. on October 16. The final day for mule rides on the North Rim will be October 15.

The Kaibab Lodge, located four miles north of the park boundary, will have full services through October 15. From October 16 through November 5, they will have a limited number of rooms available to guests. The Kaibab Lodge will close for the season after breakfast November 6. The Kaibab Country Store, also located outside of the park boundary across from the Kaibab Lodge, will remain open until early November, weather permitting, and then will be closed until mid May of 2008. The Kaibab Plateau Visitor Center at Jacob Lake will have reduced hours starting in mid October.

Arizona Department of Transportation officials will try and keep Highway 67 open through the end of November, but a major storm with heavy snowfall could close the road earlier. After November 1, visitors are encouraged to call the NPS, North Rim at (928) 638-7870 in advance of their trip to check on the status of Highway 67.

From October 16 until final closure of State Highway 67, only emergency services will be provided by the NPS, and visitors are reminded to pay special attention to their gas gauge, since gas will no longer be available in the park. Gas and diesel fuel will be available five miles north of the park at the Country Store through early November. Jacob Lake Inn, restaurant and gas station, located 45 miles from the North Rim developed area, remains open year-round.

The South Rim and Inner Canyon facilities remain open year-round. For additional trip planning information, please write:

Trip Planner (or) Backcountry Trip Planner
Grand Canyon National Park
PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

The public can also call the park at (928) 638-7888 or visit the park's Web site at www.nps.gov/grca.

- NPS -